

a corresponding plurality of power semiconductor output stages, the output stages including low-side-connected N-channel MOSFETs,

wherein each of the excitation windings is connected in a series circuit integrally with a respective one of the MOSFETs, the excitation windings being connected to a common direct-current supply voltage, the excitation windings being energized successively in a commutation cycle and being situated alternatingly in opposite directions into the series circuits with the MOSFETs,

a' wherein, in the context of more than two excitation windings, the commutation cycle extends over an even number of successive, alternatingly oppositely polarized excitation windings, and

wherein, in associated commutation phases, the MOSFETs are driven fully into a conductive state with uniform control signals; and

a smoothing capacitor connected in parallel to the series circuits for transferring back, in a countercurrent direction to the direct-current supply voltage, a disconnection energy transferred in a transformer fashion, upon disconnection of the excitation windings, to a respectively next energizable excitation winding.

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice original claims 1-4 and substitute claim 1 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02421, and adds without prejudice new claim 2. The new claim conforms the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and does not add new matter to the application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to conform the Specification and Abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3)(iii) and § 1.125(b)(2), a Marked Up Version Of The Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) is respectfully requested.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02421 includes an International Search Report, dated December 12, 2000. The Search Report includes a list of